

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 293

October 1, 1998, Noon
Page S-11239 Temp. Record

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION/Conference, Passage

SUBJECT: Conference report to accompany the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1999 . . . H.R. 3616. Agreeing to the conference report.

ACTION: CONFERENCE REPORT AGREED TO, 96-2

SYNOPSIS: The conference report to accompany H.R. 3616, the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1999, will authorize \$270.5 billion in budget authority for national defense programs (this amount is equal to the requested level, and is in accordance with the budget agreement of last year). As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), defense spending will be just 3.1 percent, which will be the lowest level since 1940. Defense spending has declined steadily since 1986, when it was 6.5 percent of GDP. Details are provided below.

- Procurement authorizations totaling \$49.9 billion will be enacted, including: \$2.901 billion for 13 C-17 aircraft; \$2.872 billion for 30 F/A-18E/F tactical fighter aircraft; \$2.679 billion for 3 DDG-51 destroyers; \$2.003 billion for the second new attack submarine (NSSN); \$771.3 million for 2 F-22 aircraft and for advance procurement for 6 aircraft (see vote No. 180 for related debate); and \$638.8 million for the LPD-17 amphibious ship.

- Research, development, test, and evaluation authorizations totaling \$36.0 billion will be enacted, including: \$3.537 billion for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization; \$950.5 million of that amount will be for National Missile Defense (equal to the amount requested); \$310.4 million of that amount will be for the Navy Theater-Wide (Upper Tier) Missile Defense Program; \$527.4 million of that amount will be for the Theater High Altitude Aerial Defense (THAAD) Program; \$1.582 billion for F-22 tactical fighter engineering and manufacturing development (EMD); and \$183 million for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), including for the Dark Star program.

- End-Strengths. Recommended active duty end-strength: 1,395,778 (a decrease of 35,601), as follows: Army, 480,000; Navy, 372,696; Air Force, 370,882; and Marine Corps, 172,200. Recommended selected reserve end strengths: 883,322 (a decrease of 9,937), as follows: Army National Guard, 357,223; Army Reserve, 208,003; Naval Reserve, 90,843; Marine Corps Reserve, 40,018; Air National Guard, 106,992; Air Force Reserve, 74,243; and Coast Guard Reserve, 8,000.

(See other side)

YEAS (96)				NAYS (2)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republican (55 or 100%)		Democrats (41 or 95%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (2 or 5%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (2)
Abraham	Hutchinson	Akaka	Johnson		Feingold		Glenn ⁻²
Allard	Hutchison	Baucus	Kennedy		Wellstone		Moseley-Braun ⁻²
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Biden	Kerrey				
Bennett	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kerry				
Bond	Kempthorne	Boxer	Kohl				
Brownback	Kyl	Breaux	Landrieu				
Burns	Lott	Bryan	Lautenberg				
Campbell	Lugar	Bumpers	Leahy				
Chafee	Mack	Byrd	Levin				
Coats	McCain	Cleland	Lieberman				
Cochran	McConnell	Conrad	Mikulski				
Collins	Murkowski	Daschle	Moynihan				
Coverdell	Nickles	Dodd	Murray				
Craig	Roberts	Dorgan	Reed				
D'Amato	Roth	Durbin	Reid				
DeWine	Santorum	Feinstein	Robb				
Domenici	Sessions	Ford	Rockefeller				
Enzi	Shelby	Graham	Sarbanes				
Faircloth	Smith, Bob	Harkin	Torricelli				
Frist	Smith, Gordon	Hollings	Wyden				
Gorton	Snowe	Inouye					
Gramm	Specter						
Grams	Stevens						
Grassley	Thomas						
Gregg	Thompson						
Hagel	Thurmond						
Hatch	Warner						
Helms							

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

● Key miscellaneous provisions include the following: a 3.6 percent pay raise will be authorized effective January 1, 1999; the total military construction budget will be \$8.444 billion (a \$734 million decrease, and \$666 million more than requested); \$11.967 billion will be authorized for atomic energy defense activities; certain strategic delivery systems will not be retired unless START II enters into force (the current moratorium will be extended for 1 year); the Federal Government will keep and publish a list of Chinese military-owned companies operating in the United States, and the President will be given expanded authority to act against those companies, if warranted (see vote No. 136); it is the sense of Congress that United States ground forces should not remain in Bosnia indefinitely (for related debate, see vote Nos. 170-171); by April 15, 1999, male and female recruits' sleeping areas will be separated by permanent walls and access will be limited to separate entrances (for related debate, see vote Nos. 172 and 180); the ban on performing abortions on demand at overseas military facilities will be retained (for related debate, see vote No. 176); training facilities at Mountain Home Air Base will be expanded (for related debate, see vote No. 177); the Customs Service will monitor and report on imported products made with slave or indentured labor; when the President requests funds for a contingency operation involving 500 or more members of the Armed Forces, he will be required to report on the specific objectives and the specific end date or terms for ending the operation based on those objectives; it is the sense of Congress that Congress condemns the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan; the anti-personnel landmine moratorium scheduled to go into effect February 12, 1999 will be repealed; the amount authorized for Radio Free Asia will be increased substantially; the Secretary of Energy will have a December, 1998 deadline to pick a preferred tritium production technology, but will not obligate funds before October 31, 1999 to implement a final selection on the technology chosen; and Federal civilian employees at military bases that are on State borders will not be subject to income taxes of the States of which they are not residents.

Those favoring passage contended:

Conferees on this bill had to reconcile nearly 1,000 funding differences and craft compromises on over 570 legislative issues. Overall, we are pleased with the results, though we remain concerned that the total funding level is too low. The defense budget is now at its lowest point, 3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), since the Great Depression. At a recent hearing, even the Clinton Administration's political appointees at the Defense Department admitted that the huge cuts that they have managed to make (Congress prevented even deeper cuts that were advocated by President Clinton) have seriously degraded military capabilities. Belatedly, they now say they want to work with Congress to increase defense spending. We are pleased, and look forward to working first to stop the decline, and then to rebuilding the military. The conference report has two items that have drawn strong opposition from a few Senators. First, some Senators oppose the moratorium on tritium production. We do as well, but we note that they are overstating the effect of the provision. A new production technology will still be picked by this December, and fully 95 percent of this bill's funding on tritium will be to prepare for production. This issue had threatened to derail the conference report, so we are very satisfied with the minor compromise that we ended up having to make. The other strong sticking point for some Senators is a provision that will relieve Tennessee civilians workers at a military base that straddles the border with Kentucky of having to pay Kentucky income taxes. This provision is fair. Those workers enter the base from a Federal road, and do not receive any services from Kentucky. They therefore should not have to pay Kentucky taxes. Those two issues aside, we are certain this conference report has nearly unanimous support. We urge its adoption.

While favoring passage, some Senators expressed the following reservations.

Argument 1:

Tritium is a radioactive gas with a very short half-life. It is an essential component of nuclear warheads. In 1998, the United States shut down the only reactor that it had that made tritium. For the past 10 years, Congress has pressed hard to have the Government select a new means of creating tritium and then to build any needed facilities. Unfortunately, anti-nuclear forces have now joined forces with a few Members who favor a particular means of making tritium that does not appear to be favored by the Department of Energy, and they have managed to put a 1-year moratorium in this conference report on producing tritium. We strongly oppose that moratorium. That caveat aside, we support this bill.

Argument 2:

It is a long-established principle, and a Federal law, that States may tax people based upon where they work. When States have disputes they work them out between themselves. This conference report will meddle in such a dispute between Kentucky and Tennessee by denying Kentucky the right to tax certain Tennesseans who are working in Kentucky. We oppose this meddling.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to passage.